THE SHAKERITE

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HOEDOWN SHOWDOWN

Students, administration butt heads at the Back to School Dance, page 6

THE SHAKERITE

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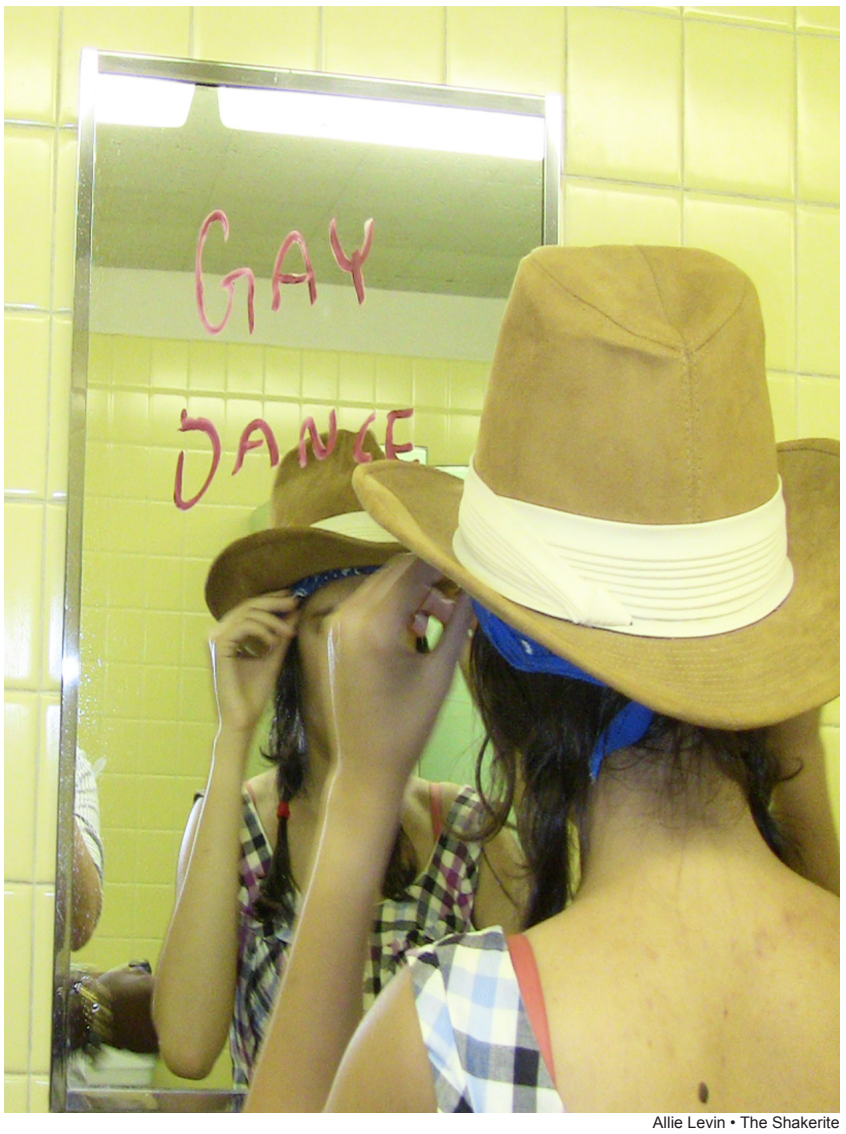


Allie Levin • The Shakerite

STUDENTS WEREN'T AFRAID to express their opinions about the recent Back to School Dance Sept. 12. Someone used lipstick and a slur to express her disapproval of restrictions on dance styles. This photograph was taken in the girls' bathroom on the night of the dance.

Germans, lipstick and bird calls

• The Shakerite takes a look at this month in photos

Allie Levin • The Shakerite

ON SEPT. 11 Associate Director of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art Geoff Bullen visited the high school at the invitation of Theater Department Chairwoman Christine McBurney. Bullen presented a workshop on performing Shakespeare to help prepare students for their upcoming staging of "Much Ado About Nothing."

THE CHANTICLEERS PERFORMED at the annual German Exchange Assembly Sept. 21 in the Large Auditorium. Sixteen German students, along with two teachers, made the 11-hour trip from Goslar, Germany to Cleveland and arrived Sept. 20. Nineteen Shaker students will host the visitors for two weeks. During their stay, both Shaker and German students will participate in a variety of activities, such as experiencing Amish life and traveling to Niagara Falls. Senior Edith Anderson, a student in German II, is excited to host Christin Prozell. "It's really cool having someone from a different country because we're as fascinated about [the German exchange students] and their culture as they are about us," Anderson stated.

Gabriel White • The Shakerite

COVER SHOT

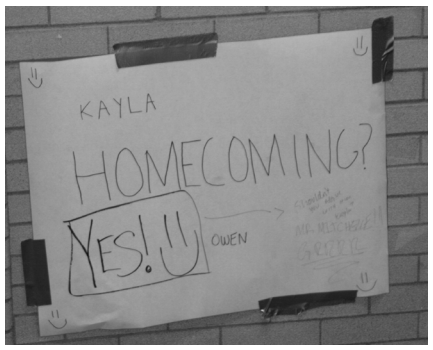
Controversy over appropriate behavior at the Back to School Dance leads the news this month, and the cover image, taken by Photo Editor Allie Levin at the dance Sept. 12, illustrates the challenge administrators face when trying to police students' dance styles.

Although students are uninhibited when grinding in front of their peers and their principals, feelings often change when images of the dance appear. Before this photo even made its way to the page, The Shakerite heard complaints from students who were upset at the prospect of being seen by an audience outside of the dance.

The dance, like the school, is a public place, and these days, every student has a camera and a Facebook page. And, as long as school officials attempt to address dance behavior, images from dances are news.

This Month

10.01.09



HOMECOMING?
ASKING THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE IN A FUN AND CREATIVE WAY IS SURE TO GET YOU THE ANSWER YOU WANT, SEE MORE ON PAGE 10

ANGRY ATHLETES ABOUND! SEE MORE IN RADIERZONE, PAGE 15

OCTOBER

				1. Terra Nova Testing 9th Graders Field Hockey vs. Laurel School 4:30 p.m. Tennis LEL Tourney 9 a.m.	**2.** At the movies: "Whip It"	**3.** Men's Soccer @ North Olmsted 7 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. Willoughby South 10 a.m.
4.	**5.** Volleyball @ Bedford Heights 6:30 p.m.	**6.** Men's Soccer vs. Chagrin Falls 4:30 p.m. Women's Soccer @ Eastlake 7 p.m.	**7.**	**8.** Field Hockey vs. Hudson 4:30 p.m.	**9.** Spirit Breakfast on the Front Lawn 7:15 a.m. At the movies: "Couples Retreat"	**10.** Homecoming Dance 8 p.m. Football vs. Mentor 2 p.m.
11. Bring your Teddy Bear to Work Day	**12.** Columbus Day Women's Soccer @ Howland 7 p.m. Picture Retake Day	**13.** Men's Soccer @ Westlake 7 p.m. Golf Districts @ Legends of Massilion 8 a.m.	**14.** Cavaliers vs. Washington 7:00 p.m. HS Chior Concert 7:30 p.m.	**15.** Volleyball @ Gilmour Academy 6 p.m.	**16.** At the movies: "Where the Wild Things Are"	**17.** Men's Soccer @ Hawken 5 p.m. PSAT Testing 8-11 a.m.
18. Watch a Squirrel Day	**19.** Early Dismissal	**20.**	**21.**	**22.** Theater Ensemble Preview 7 p.m.	**23.** Student Council Camp End of Grading Period At the movies: "SAW VI"	**24.** ACT Testing 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cross Country District Meet TBA
25. Compiled by Julia Celeste	**26.**	**27.** OGT Testing (11&12)	**28.** OGT Testing (11&12) At the movies: "This is It"	**29.** OGT Testing (11&12)	**30.** OGT Testing (11&12) Report Cards Mailed	**31.** Halloween Cross Country Regional Meet TBA

NATIONAL POPCORN MONTH

- Popcorn popping month has been celebrated for 25 years but was officially proclaimed in 1991 by Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.
- Americans consume more than 16 billion quarts of popcorn annually. That is 54 quarts per person.
- The world's largest popcorn ball was made Sept. 29, 2006 and had a circumference of 24.5 feet.

For more fun facts and fun popcorn recipes check out www.popcorn.org

heard in the halls

"Students for Twerk"

"Sorry, I didn't eat gold and have a flying pony when I was little."

"Her weave needs an expiration date."

Student 1: "You're going to suck as a lab partner."

Student 2: "What do you mean? I am great at labbing."

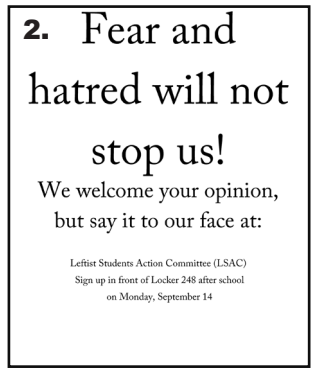
Person 1: "Look at that Arab."

Person 2: "That isn't a nice term to use."

Person 1: "Fine, Latin American."

THIS MONTH'S FLIERS: FROM RIDICULOUS TO RADICAL

S.G.S.S. (Student Group on Squirrel Skillz)
Number one for creativity and hand-rendered drawings.


2.
Fear and hatred will not stop us!
We welcome your opinion, but say it to our face at:
Leftist Students Action Committee (LSAC)
Sign up in front of Locker 248 after school on Monday, September 14

Posters advertising a Leftist Students Action Committee appeared around the school in September, and the language raised interest and questions.

Co-founders Jamal Dillman-Hassl and Rachel Davidson took the unusual approach of holding meetings at locker 248. Principal Michael Griffith said, "At this point, I don't know that much about it," and noted that the group could not become a school club until they appeared before Student Council.

Dillman-Hassl explained that the first meetings were held at lockers because he needed to recruit 15 members to make LSAC an official club. He said he has achieved that goal.

The fliers' language is not timid. Two read, "The revolution will not be silenced! (even if you tear down all of our posters)" and "Fear and hatred will not stop us! We welcome your opinion but say it to our face."

The LSAC is "primarily an action committee" Dillman-Hassl said. Dillman-Hassl, a junior, has been "stunned but happy" with the group's turnout so far and hopes that it will continue to grow.

Whitney Livingston

Note Worthy

10.05.09

SHAKER CLASS OF 2002 ALUMNUS SLAIN IN CLUB BRAWL

Ivory Wright ('02) was shot and killed outside Club E on Lee Road in Cleveland on the early morning of Sept. 12. Police said he was shot at about 3 a.m. after a fight broke out. According to a Plain Dealer report, Wright, 25, was killed trying to protect somebody from being jumped. "He was a big, soft guy," his brother Seiji told the PD. "I never saw him get into a fight before. He never caused any problems. Everyone liked him." **DANA FINLEY**

The Plain Dealer

BRIEFS

GUN SCARE NEAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

• Shaker Heights Middle School received a back-to-school scare Aug. 25 when a caller informed police that he suspected a group of males in the nearby RTA median strip were carrying weapons. Shaker Heights Communication Director Peggy Caldwell said that the call occurred at 3:27 p.m. "A passerby thought he saw people with weapons. As a precaution, [Shaker Heights Middle School] closed the playing fields," said Scott Lee, Shaker Heights police chief. According to Lee, the police spoke to the caller, checked the area and found no evidence to support the alert. Caldwell also stated that the police department closed Shaker Boulevard between Warrensville Center Road and Belvoir Boulevard. The police used dogs to search the area and "did an outstanding job of ensuring the safety of students and staff, and keeping us informed of the situation," Caldwell said. She stated that the area was pronounced "all clear" around 4:45 p.m.

• Seventeen members of the class of 2010 were named Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship program Sept. 17. This year, Shaker is represented by seniors Alison Boyd, Abigail Christman, Grace Crosby, Benjamin Davis, Rose Egelhoff, Samantha Goldfarb, Julie Gyurgyik, Maxwell Haber, Carol Hundert, Anirudh Jayanti, Rachel Leonard, Lawrence Neil, Callum Orr, Caelyn Rosch, Kathryn Rownd, David Stahl and Harper Sutherland. They will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarship awards that will be awarded next spring. Last year, six Shaker seniors won National Merit Scholarships and one senior claimed a National Achievement Scholarship.

COMPILED BY DANA FINLEY AND JOAN THOMPSON

www.shaker.org

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA addresses speaks at the town hall meeting on health care reform at the high school July 23. The city says its image was enhanced by the visit.

by the #'s

COSTS AND BENEFITS

$8,172

Amount spent by the city for police, fire fighters and other personnel overtime

$9,000

Amount the district was paid for the president's use of the high school

$2.6 MILLION

Estimated value of the public relations gererated by the president's visit

Compiled by Layne Sims

THE OBAMA NET EFFECT

BY GRAHAM FINE
STAFF REPORTER

According to a city estimate, President Obama's July 23 visit to the high school July 23 boosted Shaker Heights' image to the tune of $2.3 million.

However, some question whether or not this media attention was helpful or even positive.

The White House decided that President Obama would come to Shaker Heights for a town hall meeting on his health care plan at the high school.

The district was paid about $9,000 for the President's use of the facilities, which is the usual rental fee according to Peggy Caldwell, district director of communications.

The city paid $8,172 for police, public works, firemen, overtime and additional personnel in order to keep the president safe during his visit, according to data provided by a secretary for the city's Chief Administrative Officer, Jeri Chaikin.

The public relations generated by the president's visit were valued at $2.6 million by the Chief Administrative Officer's office.

The CAO also estimated that 59 million people saw positive news about Shaker Heights and 466 local and national news stations ran something positive about Shaker Heights because of the President's visit.

These numbers are just estimates and a value can't truly be put on publicity, according to Bill Sledzik, associate professor at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Kent State.

"The only thing that matters in the end is, does it change behavior?" Sledzik said.

Such changes in behavior would be exhibited through new residents moving into Shaker or even new businesses opening up in the Shaker area because they saw something positive about Shaker in the media.

But this positive public relations may not be enough to change people's opinions about Shaker.

"We attract a certain type of people," said Howard Hanna Realtor Jacki Collesi, who said high taxes are a factor in people's search for houses.

Collesi also said that, since the President's visit, she hasn't had anyone say that they want to look in Shaker specifically because they saw it in the news.

Some people are skeptical of the city's estimate and what it could mean for the city.

One such person is SHHS business teacher Larry Gold, who said, "I'd like to see what they consider positive news," and was confused by the magnitude of the estimate because he didn't see anything in the national news about Shaker.

Asked whether he thought behavior changed due to the visit, Gold said, "I don't see where the city benefited from this."

Government and economics teacher Kim Owens said she doesn't think someone is likely to move to Shaker just because the presidential town hall meeting was mentioned in the news.

Owens went on to say that she feels that Shaker is well known throughout the country.

Owens wondered whether the positive exposure was to people who may have already known about Shaker or who attended Obama's speech.

Sign-in for late arrival meets with resistance, indifference

BY LAYNE SIMS
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

A month into the high school's new tardy policy, students have many questions.

Does it exist? If so, does it work? And should they write their parent's numbers on a clipboard for all to see?

The administration started the policy to decrease tardies and class skipping. Students must write their names, times of arrival and parents' cell phone numbers on sheets mounted on clipboards in every classroom. Depending on the teacher, students could get detentions, calls home or referrals. Some teachers do nothing. Though students dislike the policy, it seems to be of little bother.

Some students haven't noticed it or have forgotten about it."I didn't know we had a new tardy system!" said Shawn Lawrence, a senior.

"I think it's stupid since kids will just sneak in if teachers aren't looking." Said senior Max Bennett.

Senior Zania Kennedy remembered the policy but objected to the lack of privacy.

"I'd have a problem leaving my number for all to see. Crazy people get it and call you," she said.

The policy was introduced although truancy is down and school attendance went up 1.3 percent from last year to 96.3 percent, according to the district website.

Assistant Principal Jasmine Clark said there's little that's new about policy.

"[It] always existed. It was revised to give security guards a role in lowering truancy," she said.

Questions about the policy haven't reached Clark. "I've heard no complaints from students or teachers," she said.

DIAGNOSING THE ODDS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

Why health care is expensive, and why reform is long in coming
Premium
the money that an individual pays to an insurance company per year for coverage

BY EVAN WHEELER
COPY EDITOR

The struggle in Washington over healthcare reform has swept the nation and sparked a long, heated, divisive debate all across America over the role of government, the budget and whether healthcare is a privilege or a right.

The United States is the only industrialized country without universal healthcare available to all citizens. Approximately 86 percent of Americans have insurance, and two-thirds receive it through their employer. However, estimates suggest there are 47 million uninsured people in the United States.

In addition, a sizable number of people are underinsured, meaning that the cost to treat them would exceed their coverage. Citizens with pre-existing conditions that would be expensive to treat are often unable to buy insurance. Insurance companies make profits by collecting premiums and hoping that the cost to treat an individual doesn't exceed it. Therefore, insurance companies lose risk by denying claims or insurance to people with difficult conditions.

There are two ways the government can administer care: it can provide insurance to procure the service, or provide the actual service itself. Canada's health system provides insurance, while Britain's National Health Service (NHS) and France's provide the service. In countries that provide coverage there are private practitioners to provide additional, specialized services which the individual must pay out of pocket for.

Currently, the federal government sells insurance, regardless of pre-existing conditions, to seniors, the disabled or otherwise incapacitated in the form of Medicare. Other programs provide free or cheap insurance. However, a significant number of people are still uninsured because of limits on eligibility for these programs.

In 2007, the total spending on healthcare in the U.S. amounted to $2.3 trillion. Total education spending, in contrast, is only one-fifth of that. Costs are expected to continue to rise.

There are numerous explanations, all of which may be partly responsible, for the rising cost of healthcare.

Insurance companies may inflate prices for profit and spend their budget on non-healthcare-related costs like advertising. Republicans posit that premiums are high because state laws require people to buy their insurance from in state, and so pockets of the United States will pay exorbitant fees because of a monopoly in the market by an insurance company.

Public Option
a government-run insurance plan, available nationally, to compete with private insurers and provides insurance at market rates

Hospitals must provide emergency care under federal law, even if the person is not covered by insurance. Often, because the uninsured have not previously been diagnosed or given preventative care for their conditions, expensive treatments are required to save a person's life, and that person may not be able to pay the cost or will file bankruptcy, thus counting as a loss for the hospital. The hospital must then cover their losses in other areas by increasing the cost of treatment.

An alternative, less appealing explanation is that Americans are over treated, and demand outstrips supply. Because consumers with insurance may not feel the pain of paying out-of-pocket, they are inclined to receive more expensive treatments. Doctors comply, and provide treatment to stop medical-malpractice suits, or to please the patient. Healthcare reform had taken a backseat to the Iraq War and the economy, but with the election of Democratic majority in 2006 and the election of Democratic President Barack Obama, the prospect of reform was within their grasp.

After several additional senators joined their ranks, Democrats had 60 senators, enough to override a procedural move called a filibuster.

However, Democrats adopted a strategy of employing social or economic conservatives to compete in districts that would not elect a liberal. These Democratic congressmen, called "Blue Dogs", have been hesitant to support health care reform. Many take contributions from health insurance lobbyists, while others fear that voting for the bill will cause a backlash from their constituency that would throw them out of office.

President Obama was not the first to advocate healthcare reform. In 1993, Bill Clinton attempted to pass healthcare reform, a main plank of his presidential campaign.

He assigned a task force, headed by Hillary Clinton, to pass universal healthcare. The cornerstone of the plan was to make coverage mandatory by employers to provide insurance through Health Maintenance Organizations. Conservatives derided the plan as "Hillarycare," and after resistance and infighting amongst Democrats, the plan faltered and was declared dead in August 1994.

Max Baucus, chairman of the House Finance Committee, released his healthcare reform proposal Sept. 16. The proposal satisfied neither conservatives, who dislike the provision for mandatory insurance, nor liberals, who dislike the lack of the public option. The bill will be altered as it progresses through the committee and the Senate, but it will undoubtedly remain a figure of contention.

President Obama said that "I am not the first President to take up this cause, but I am determined to be the last". His legacy - and very likely, his re-election – hinge on whether he succeeds or not.

Medicare
a health-care plan offered by the U.S. government to the disabled and elderly, regardless of preexisting conditions

Compiled by Taylor Smith, Victoria Fydrych, Emily Gross-Rosenblatt, Evan Wheeler

A skeptic's view of health overhaul

BY LAYNE SIMS
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Amid Republican assertions that President Obama's health care plan would decrease the quality of health care, kill senior citizens and force dictatorship upon the U.S., Joli Gracon, 40, remains supportive of her party. A Shaker resident born in Springfield, Ohio, she and her family are strong Republican voters. She is unemployed by choice and caring for her mother with Alzheimer's disease. The Shakerite interviewed her Sept. 9 at her home.

Sims: What do you think about the President's health care bill?

Gracon: Explain it to me, I don't know much about it.

Sims: What have you heard about it?

Gracon: I've heard bits and pieces, but I don't pay attention. Politicians feed us so many lines that it goes in one ear and out the other.

Sims: President Obama wants a government insurance option to compete with private companies to lower care prices and make it affordable. However, some say Obama's trying to force government on us so he can rule our lives.

Gracon: So we'll get health care forced on us that we must pay for, right?

Sims: No, that's just what some think.

Gracon: Well, I'm nervous to talk about this, but we still have freedom of speech right now, and it's important that this gets out. I think it's very scary that we could end up at the president and Washington's mercy. If you read the book 1984, it details what's…er, what some think is happening.

Sims: What do you think of a man declaring he's a right wing terrorist at a town hall and getting praised by a republican senator?

Gracon: I think that's screwed up. People like that can't talk out of both sides of their mouth, calling President Obama a terrorist or something and saying they are, too.

Sims: What do you think of protestors screaming that the government should be kept out of Medicare?"

Gracon: I agree and disagree with that. I agree because the President shouldn't meddle with private citizen's care. I disagree because private companies deduct money from my mother's social security check to cover her. This happens to many seniors and it shouldn't be so. Also, I have a dear friend paying $2000 a month because insurance companies won't cover her. I hope President Obama addresses that.

Sims: His plan does address that.

Gracon: I wouldn't believe…I hope so.

Sims: What do you think of the rumor that Obama's plan is just a plot to kill old people?

Gracon: I wouldn't go that far. But I don't think the President wants to fix this. I think the government's hoping they can ignore old people so they will naturally die off before getting social security checks. Then they wouldn't have to fix anything or spend any money, but that just won't happen. See, people grow older every day, so the elderly won't go away. They need their needs met, not gradually taken away. I wish Pres…politicians understood that.

Sims: Do you think other presidents did that?

Gracon: Yes, as long as Social Security's been around.

Sims: President Obama doesn't plan to harm old people or take away any health care from anyone. Do you believe the promises he made us?

Gracon: Personally, no. President Obama won't keep his promises. I've been watching him, and he just doesn't seem genuine. It seems like he said what we wanted to hear to get elected. Now he isn't fixing stuff. I'd believe it if he gave more details. The lack leaves everything in the open.

Sims: Do you believe politicians in general do this or just Obama?

Gracon: No, all politicians do it.

Sims: So, you distrust politicians of both parties?

Gracon: Yes.

Sims: Who would you prefer to lead the country, then? Would you prefer someone like Sarah Palin or who?

Gracon: Yes, I would prefer Sarah Palin. I feel she has strong morals more in line with mine. She also believes in the Bible, so she has a stronger sense of what's right and wrong, unlike Pres…most politicians do.

Sims: Do you believe some of the crazy rumors being spread?

Gracon: No. The plan isn't as extreme as some make it out to be. I do believe Obama's making it look much better than it actually…than it might be. But all politicians do that. I'll tell you who does believe some of that, my father. He says the President is a communist, has terrorist connections, and actually believes…..he's the devil. Also, he doesn't like blacks, and thinks it's morally wrong to have blacks in the White House. I don't think it matters what race Obama is, and in fact they'd give him this much grief if he were white because…of his more radical policies.

Sims: Thank you.

Gracon: Did you interview me because I'm Republican?

Sims: Partially. It's kind of rare to have a Republican living in Shaker.

Gracon: In that case, you can call me a gem!

NEW RULES CAUSE BLUES

• Kicked out for grinding at dance, students complain expectations were not clearly stated

BY DANA FINLEY
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Despite administrators' efforts to communicate expectations for appropriate behavior before the Sept. 12 Back to School Dance, approximately 15 students were escorted from the event for violating the new guidelines.

However, communication discrepancies among staff members and students left many attendees confused about what sort of behavior would be deemed inappropriate by the administration.

In the days after the dance, aggrieved students met with school leaders to discuss how future events would be chaperoned.

AN INCONSISTENT MESSAGE

Shortly after school began, tension between the administration and members of the student body rose after new school social-guidelines were first communicated Sept. 2.

According to Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson, the school is serious about cracking down on inappropriate dancing at school socials.

"We're hoping not to see inappropriate dancing that is offensive or somewhat dirty in nature," Hutchinson said in a Sept. 3 interview. Hutchinson said security and administrative officials at the high school would monitor the dance, identify students deemed to be dancing inappropriately, pull them from the dance floor and call their parents. Students would consequently be asked to leave the dance.

These new standards were supposed to be mentioned at every counselor meeting Sept. 2. Hutchinson said that the responsibility to address the students regarding the issue fell to school administrators present at each class meeting, in this case, assistant principals. However, many students said that even Hutchinson failed to address the new school policy at his own class meetings.

"At our meeting, I don't recall him saying anything about the dance," junior Damon Anderson said.

Some students said their assistant principals informed them and their classmates that suggestive dancing, popularly known as "grinding" and "freaking," would not be permitted at the Sept. 12 event, while other students said their assistant principals said nothing to them at their meetings.

Confused students turned to their student government for clarification. Student Body President Murphy Metheny stated slightly different sentiments than the adults, albeit clearer ones.

"My understanding of the dancing situation is that we can still dance as we have in previous years, we just need to keep things appropriate and tone it down a bit," she stated.

Both Hutchinson and Metheny emphasized the importance of students remembering the setting when attending a school social as well as the behavior it warrants.

"We want for you all to have a good time," Hutchinson said. "[Students] need to understand it is not 'da club'—or the club—it is a school social."

Similarly, Metheny stated students need to exercise restraint when dancing. "The principals and administrators understand that it's our generation's style of dancing, but we also need to keep in mind that it's a high school dance, not a club, and we need to act respectful towards each other and remember that there are boundaries that come with school events."

Hutchinson expressed his hope that the administrators chaperoning the dance would be uniform in their approach. "I believe an effort will be made to get everyone on the same page," said Hutchinson, who did not anticipate that very many students would receive consequences for their actions at the dance, based on student behavior at past dances. "I don't think this is about to be big," Hutchinson said regarding the number of students he believed would run afoul of the guidelines at the dance.

STUDENTS' RESPONSE

Contrary to Hutchinson's hopes, students didn't respond well to the administration's boundaries when it came to dancing. Many students were met with the sight of school officials reprimanding tearful students who had been pulled from the dance after exhibiting allegedly suggestive dance moves. Assistant Principal Frank Wessinger could be seen standing at the edge of the dancing crowd, monitoring students and selecting those who were moving in a lewd manner.

Hutchinson said prior to the dance that a letter would be sent home to inform parents about new dance policies. However, many students said they didn't receive their letters until the day of the dance or until after the fact. A few minutes before the end of the school day on Sept. 11, Hutchinson made an announcement reminding students to "make good decisions before the dance," but made no mention of changes in dancing regulations that would be enforced the following night.

Sophomore Michaela Matthews was removed from the dance by Dr. Ann Spurrier. "[She] pulled me away and told me I should be very embarrassed and wanted to call my parents," Matthews stated in a Facebook interview.

Allie Levin • The Shakerite
STUDENTS ENGAGE IN dance moves that some administrators deemed inappropriate at the Sept. 12 Back to School Dance.

> "I don't think this is about to be big."
>
> Eric Hutchinson
> assistant principal

> "The administration was picking and choosing who they kicked out, which was ridiculous because I'm pretty sure everyone there was doing the same thing."
>
> Michaela Matthews
> sophomore

> "We feel that overall the students were left feeling uncomfortable, confused and disrespected."
>
> Murphy Metheny
> senior class president

"Overall I didn't really care [that] I got kicked out; the dance was boring anyway . . . the administration was picking and choosing who they kicked out, which was ridiculous because I'm pretty sure everyone there was doing the same thing."

Metheny stated that Student Council barely broke even financially after the dance. She also said council members were not particularly happy with the outcome. "Student Council is very disappointed with some of the actions taken by administration, and although we respect them collectively, we also feel that overall the students were left feeling uncomfortable, confused and disrespected," Metheny stated in a Facebook interview.

Junior Matthew Neary was one of those students. Neary, who was removed from the dance by administrators, estimates that around 9:30 p.m. Spurrier used Neary's cell phone to call his mother.

"My mom laughed and thought it was ridiculous," Neary recalled. The phone call lasted 11 minutes.

THE DEBATE ENSUES

During the school day on Sept. 18, a meeting of administrators and Student Council members was convened to discuss events that took place at the dance and to resolve issues for future dances. Junior Class President Walter Stamm, who was present at the meeting, said that the students felt very strongly about communicating their views on how the administration handled discipline.

"We told the administration that the way they tried to communicate to the students about the dancing rules and restrictions was very unclear, and they agreed that they weren't as clear as intended," Stamm stated in a Facebook interview, adding: "Also, we discussed about how twirking, grinding, and other words mean one thing to students and a completely different thing to administration.

"But overall we decided that we will hold assemblies to address the school from an administrative and student point of view and discuss the 'rules' of dancing so we can avoid all of the confusion at the next dance."

Stamm said that the meeting also addressed the issue of how the administration approached and removed misbehaving students. "We discussed ways of warning students if they are getting too raunchy with their dancing and many other ways of how administration could better handle the removing of students," Stamm stated.

IT DEPENDS ON WHO WAS TALKING

At class meetings held Sept. 2, some students heard specific language about appropriate dance styles. Others heard nothing about the dance. In some cases, the same administrator was more specific with some grades than others.

AP	GRADES THEY TOLD	PERCENT GRADE	LETTER GRADE	CREDIT REC'D
CLARK	sophomores, juniors, seniors	100%	A	1.00
WESSINGER	None	0%	F	No Credit
HUTCHINSON	sophomores and seniors	66%	D	1.00
SPURRIER	none	0%	F	No Credit

COMPILED BY DANA FINLEY AND JULIA CELESTE

AMERICA RESPECTS SHAKER. SHAKER SHOULD RESPECT AMERICA.

On September 11, 2001, everything stopped for a day – school, jobs, everyday life. Eight years later, 9/11 is a commemoration, not an interruption. Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson apologized for "another interruption" at the end of tenth period. The announcement was not made during the morning announcements, and came after the reminder during ninth period to behave at the dance. What does this say about our priorities? While making a separate announcement about 9/11 was appropriate, an interruption "just 20 seconds before the bell rings" plainly shows that as a school, we just forgot. No one likes to admit to a mistake, but if it was not a mistake, it was simply disrespect. As a school, let's get our priorities in order. Yes, people do need the reminder to behave at the dance. Still, as a community and a school we need to remember those who have died in terrorist attacks. The dance can be an afterthought, but a moment of silence should have been significant.

RACHEL SHAW

Better late than absent

During summer vacation, we slept in and did not have strict schedules. Returning to school should be a return to a standard routine, but there shouldn't be such an unexpected change.

The tardy system was designed for students to realize that being on time to class is no laughing matter. Students now have to sign a late arrival sheet even seconds after the bell rings.

ILANA KRAMER

In addition to signing their name and writing the date, students are also prompted to write their parents' phone number.

Students who do not want classmates staring at their parents' phone numbers throughout the day should not be obligated to write them. No one should be forced to write their phone number in a place where hundreds of people look every day.

The Respect Committee is a group of faculty members who are attempting to improve the overall mood of the high school. They have put up the respect pictures around the building and devised the tardy sign-in system as a new way to reach their goal.

For some students, four minutes between classes isn't enough time to leave their last class and arrive at the next. Assistant principals such as Dr. Anne Spurrier say that they can and will help students find a quicker route to their next classrooms. Teachers can't help students learn to push through crowds of people in the hallways.

Spurrier said that the tardy system is not supposed to be a threat to students who come late to class, but a light reminder for students to get to class on time.

The system allows students to be late five times before being sent to the office for further consequences. Until that point, punishments are the teacher's responsibility.

While the Respect Committee thinks that this is a productive system, students realize that additional consequences will make no difference for people who can't get to class on time through no fault of their own.

For students who don't care about being in class on time, this system won't make them care anymore.

If teachers had an issue with students being late for class before this year, they dealt with it on their own. Nothing was wrong with teachers' tardy policies, and this change is an unnecessary adjustment.

Why would teachers who wouldn't enforce their own tardy policies enforce this one?

A policy as pointless as this one can't survive in a school where students and teachers have to pick their battles.

Illustration by Gabe Gordon GG

RUDE DISSENT DISAPPOINTS

Three incidents recently portrayed America's lack of civility.

When Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) shouted "You lie!" at President Barack Obama Sept. 9, America reached a new low. There is always a need for respect, especially in Congress. If a congressman cannot even show the least bit of respect for the president, there is clearly a problem. We live in America, "The land of the free," but not free enough to yell at those with whom you disagree.

Unfortunately, the outburst in Congress was the first of a disturbing trend. Three days later, tennis player Serena Williams began swearing and threatening to shove a tennis ball down a lineswoman's throat after the official called a foot fault late in the contest. Williams kept threatening the official, and her behavior ultimately cost her the match.

The next day, Kanye West stormed the stage as Taylor Swift received her first Music Video Award. He grabbed the microphone and said, "Beyonce had one of the best [music] videos of all time." The audience began booing him and applauding Swift.

The limit on free speech has been debated since this country was created. Still, there have always been limitations -- ethical, if not legal.

Williams was the only one of the three who was penalized for her actions, although all three made some form of apology. Within five days, in politics, music and sports, a public figure deliberately insulted, demeaned or threatened another. This was not a simple miscommunication or overreaction; this disrespect is a telling sign of the degradation of American culture.

'rite idea

Simple values are becoming much harder to recognize in the American public. How did it become routine to be insulted by a colleague?

When Wilson yelled at Obama, he made a formal apology, but it was hardly apologetic, it was cold and lacked real meaning. During a later interview on Fox News, he said that he would not apologize again. Similarly, Williams said that she was wrong, but never actually apologized.

Although disagreements and disapproval are parts of everyday life, there are courteous ways to express discontent. But if Wilson's case is any indicator, courtesy is losing ground to rudeness. After his outburst, Wilson gained support to the tune of about $1 million for his campaign. His democratic opponent made $1.5 million.

Congress is a place for rational discussion, not spontaneous outbursts. Music awards provide recognition, not a chance for disgruntled artists to broadcast their personal opinions. Sports are a chance for competition, not expressing anger towards authority figures.

Does the entire country need to go back to kindergarten? We need to remember the golden rule: Treat others how you want to be treated.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLUES

Cheers & jeers

Cheers to being back on a normal schedule.
Jeers to teachers making students work all night on homework.
The amount of homework students have is outrageous!

Cheers to students who came to Shaker over the summer to support and listen to President Obama.
Jeers to Rep. Joe Wilson screaming "You Lie!" at the President during a speech to Congress.
Having an opinion is fine, but saying that you disagree with the president with insulting language is extremely disrespectful.

Cheers for worldwide recognition of September 11th.
Jeers to the administration for the last third-of-a-minute of silence at Shaker.
For years it has been more than appropriate to show some type of respect for those who died in the attack on September 11th, a 20-second moment of silence at the end of the day is far from respectful.

Cheers to the students who showed their spirit by dressing up for the Raider Rodeo Dance.
Jeers for not making expectations clear for the dance.
If dances are supposed to be fun, faculty should let students enjoy the dance.

OUT OF ONE BUBBLE, AND INTO ANOTHER

BY RACHEL SHAW
SHAKER SPEAKS EDITOR

Every new student who enters the high school quickly realizes that Shaker is unlike any other school they have attended.Students who have gone through the Shaker school system are accustomed to diversity, but for new students, it's a unique experience.

This fall, 112 new students, about six percent of the student body, came to SHHS when school started.

Freshman Daniel Weiss came to Shaker from a grade of only 22 students, while there are more than 500 students in Shaker's freshman class alone.

Despite this difference, Weiss said that The Agnon School, a Jewish school in Beachwood, is not as different as he would have expected compared to Shaker, and he found that he enjoys his new environment. "I knew I was going to like it a lot, and so far I've liked it a lot," Weiss said.

Freshman Joey Yoder also said he had an easy transition from Catholic St. Dominic School. There are so many people at Shaker that everyone can find their own group. Yoder said, "Be open to everything, be ready when you walk in and get involved. You'll make friends." Additionally, Weiss said, "It is not easy to make friends, but I am making friends."

Shaker's diversity provides an opportunity for everyone. Weiss commented that Shaker is made up of "a lot of different kinds of people, different races, different religions, different backgrounds."

Freshman Andrew Taylor-Shaut came from the Ruffing Montessori School, where the graduating class had 16 people in it. He said, "It's definitely different from Shaker. Everyone pretty much knew everything there was to know about each other, and Shaker is much broader."

At Ruffing, as well as Agnon, students called their teachers by their first names. However, there is no doubt at any school that teachers are called by last names at public schools.

Despite the change, this was a minor adjustment compared to switching schools for Weiss and Taylor-Shaut.

All students coming from private schools had similar expectations of Shaker. Students expected the student body to be more diverse.

Additionally, they expected the building itself to be bigger and more crowded than a private school. Yoder even described the hallways to be "like a zoo."

New students have long considered getting involved in activities to be the best way to meet new people, even before the school year starts. Taylor-Shaut is on the soccer team, which begins practice over the summer. He said, "I met at least 10 kids from [each] different grade. I have a variety of friends." Weiss plans to try out for basketball and track this year.

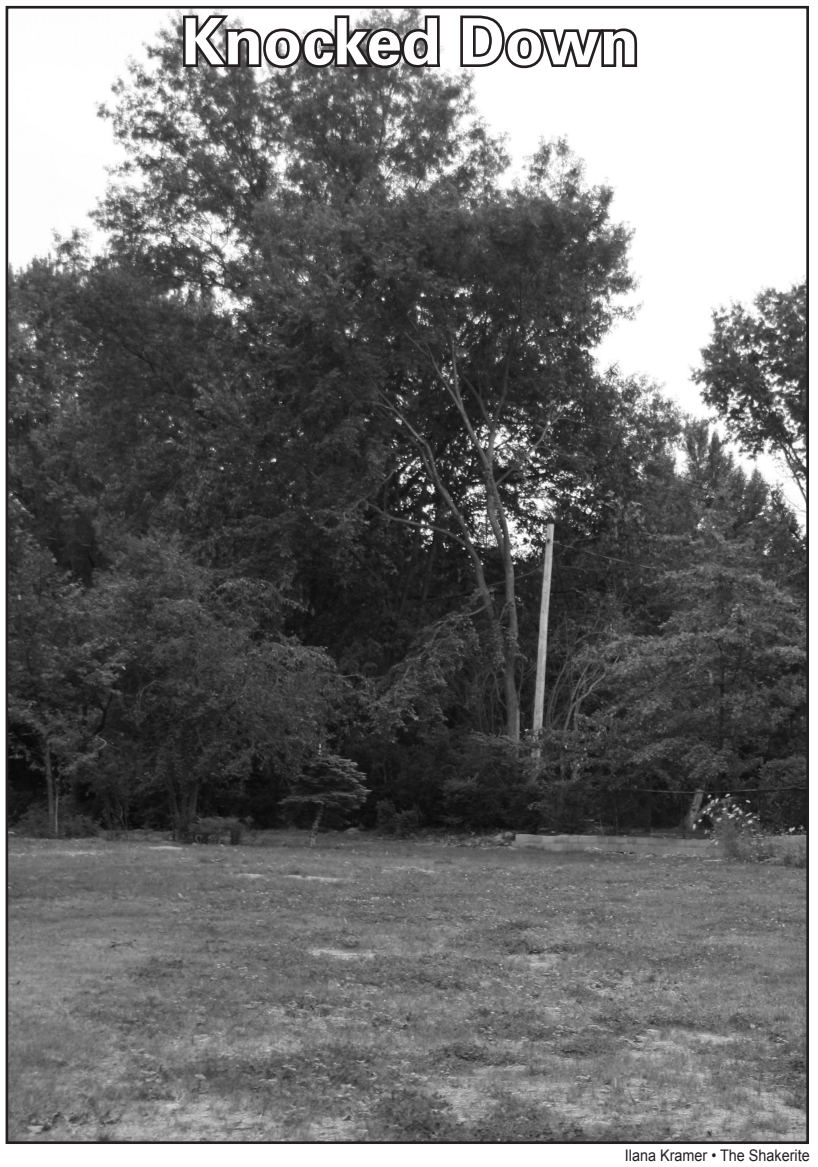
Asked to give advice to students in their position, Weiss said, "It might seem big at first, but in the end it seems smaller."

Like most freshmen, Weiss said that he was scared of being late for his classes the first week of school, but was able to navigate the building better past that first week.

Taylor-Shaut merely said, "I'd tell them to study." Weiss said that although there is more work at Shaker, the work itself is easier.

There is a Montessori high school, but Taylor-Shaut said he didn't consider it. Shaker has many more options for sports. He also said, "Since I had been in such a small space for so long, I was anticipating diversity, and more kids, and Shaker has that."

Knocked Down



Ilana Kramer • The Shakerite

LAST YEAR, THE owners of a house on Onaway Road, across the street from SHHS, were unable to pay their mortgage. Because the mortgage was not paid, the bank took ownership of this house. Because the Shaker Heights Building Department ensures the "safety and superior quality of Shaker's architecture," they explained to the bank that they needed to knock down this house, or the city would, at their expense. The house was knocked down at the end of the 2009 school year.
If you have suggestions for the lot, email them to shakerite@shaker.org.

SHAKER'S SQUEAKY CLEAN POLICY

PURELL AROUND THE SCHOOL

The Purell dispensers around the school did not pop up overnight. They are in the cafeteria, every classroom and many offices and bathrooms, but not in reaction to H1N1, or swine flu. In fact, the plan to install hand sanitizers in every classroom has been in place for the past few years, since Jarod's Law was passed in Ohio in 2006. Purell was already available in the cafeteria before anywhere else. Principal Michael Griffith said, "It is just another step to put them in other parts [of the school]."

JAROD'S LAW AT SHAKER

Six-year-old Jarod Bennett was killed in 2003 when a cafeteria table fell on top of him. Jarod's Law, the school inspection program, was passed to guarantee student safety. The law required health departments to inspect schools annually, ensuring they met stricter health and safety standards than previously demanded. The law was repealed in August 2009 and once again, schools are inspected twice a year under less strict standards. The district proceeded with the hand sanitizer plan anyway.

WHY PURELL?

Purell, an alcohol-based sanitizer, cleans and then evaporates. The alcohol breaks down germs' cells, killing them. Although soap and water provide the best protection against disease and are least likely to create super germs, alcohol-based sanitizers are good substitutes when soap is unavailable or inconvenient. As Griffith said, "It lends itself to a much healthier situation."

SWINE FLU'S TAKEOVER

H1N1 has taken its toll on Shaker. Nurse Paula Damm said that in just one day, she sent home 18 students on account of "flu-like symptoms." Griffith said that people may be looking for protection, but he emphasized that the Purell is not a reaction to the worries accompanying H1N1. The rumors accompanying H1N1 should not spread faster than the germs.

Compiled by Rachel Shaw

DRUNK DRIVING'S NEW RIVAL

•Students unaware of dangers while texting

BY ILANA KRAMER
SHAKER SPEAKS EDITOR

Photo Illustration by Brandon Mercer

You don't even notice you're doing it, but you are.

According to a poll in Seventeen magazine, nearly 50 percent of teens admit to text messaging while driving in the United States, an overwhelming amount of people taking their eyes off the road while behind the wheel. Sixty-five percent of accidents in the United States are caused by distractions on the road such as cell phones.

Although teenagers are taught the laws of the road in driving schools, common sense and new legislation should tell you: don't text and drive.

A Welsh public service announcement video was released to show teenagers how dangerous texting while driving can be.

The driver of the car is laughing and texting a friend while a girl in the backseat is asking her to stop. The video depicts in gruesome slow-motion detail the deaths of four people, while the driver who was responsible for the accident survives. She screams for help as the ambulances arrive.

The effect is terrifying and hard to forget; whether it will persuade teenagers to stop multi-tasking while driving remains to be seen.

The severe images in the video were dictated by teenagers themselves, who, after viewing the film in test showings insisted that anything milder would fail to affect their peers' texting habits.

"How anybody can think to drive while trying to type out a message on tiny little keyboards is unbelievable," said driving instructor Ned Overbeke.

Although states in the U.S. are pushing for laws prohibiting texting while driving, Overbeke explained that he hopes his students make the right decisions because they are smart, not because it's the law. He tells his students he is "not a big supporter of eliminating stupidity."

Some driving schools show violent videos to try to get through to their inexperienced drivers and show them the dangers of not being focused while driving.

Overbeke said his driving school typically doesn't show violent videos because they feel the students will develop a negative attitude and say that such scenarios could never happen to them.

Overbeke also shares the shocking fact that one of every three teenagers from the time they receive their license to six months after will get into a car crash.

Overbeke said that every new driver should be careful on the road, meaning no distractions whatsoever, especially no texting.

Sensing a rising intolerance for texting and driving, businesses such as Textecution are coming up with solutions for parents who worry about their children's safety on the road.

It is designed to monitor the speed of the car that the cell phone is in, and if traveling at a speed more than 10 miles per hour, text messages, incoming and outgoing, are blocked.

Textecution works only for certain phones, but the company is working on designs for more phones. Once it is programmed into the phone it is permanent unless the application is removed by the parent who installed it.

Textecution is a type of application that is referred to as "cell phone jamming," and although teenagers find it annoying, it is not a bad choice for parents to make. It is helpful and ensures more protection for their teenagers as they're driving.

The New York Times created a "Gauging Your Distraction" game, showing players how distracting texting while driving can be.

The point of the game is to click the cell phone buttons on the screen with the mouse while switching lanes by typing numbers into the keyboard.

The participant soon realizes that finishing the text messaging while switching lanes is extremely dangerous and frustrating. At the end, the game shows your score and reveals things that were on the road while driving.

Most drivers in the game don't see the woman standing in the road because they are too occupied with finishing their text message.

By threatening to cut transportation funding, the federal government is beginning to pressure states to pass laws against texting while driving.

Utah was the first state to make a significant law, doing so after 19-year-old Reggie Shaw killed two scientists in a car crash.

Shaw had been texting his girlfriend at the time of the accident, crossed the center line and hit the Saturn carrying the men to work.

Now, people caught texting in Utah face three months in jail and a $750 fine. Those who kill someone while texting behind the wheel in Utah will have committed a felony and could face 15 years in prison.

Drivers should be aware that laws will eventually be enforced in every state concerning texting while driving. In theory, everyone knows what a dangerous habit it is. Now is the time to put that theory into practice.

SEEING THE RISKS OF TEXTING ONLINE

If you wouild like to play the New York Times "Gauging Your Distraction" game, and watch the British PSA video, go to:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/01/technology/01distracted.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=texting%20while%20driving%20video&st=cse

to see how dangerous texting while driving can be.

ten second tick off

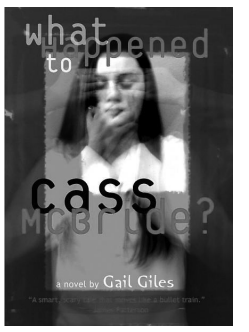
MATH TEACHER ROBIN SNYDER GETS A CHANCE TO RANT ABOUT HER RECENT UNSATISFYING EXPERIENCE IN THE PARKING LOT.

What's the deal with staff members using orange cones to save their parking spots? Is not the practice of finding an open parking space an exhilarating challenge? An honest game? Indeed, an art form? Don't you feel the excitement rising as you approach the lot after lunch, never knowing whether there will be a viable resting place for your vehicle? Am I the only one who has experienced the simple giddiness of eying a vacant sliver of asphalt as I slowly scan the perimeter? Who doesn't crave that wee moment of joy felt when pulling into the last remaining open space? How strangely satisfying is it to be at the right place at the right time? Surely I am not alone in feeling as though I have accomplished something significant, while the car behind me circles in futility. I win, you lose. That's the game. Saving your spot spoils the contest, sours my lunch, and makes me think you are no fun.

A DARKER LOOK AT ASKING SOMEONE OUT

The rejection of "nerdy teen" David and the revenge of his brother, Kyle, are the primary subjects of the harrowing novel "What Happened to Cass McBride?" by Gail Giles. Be forewarned: this book is graphic, intense and emotional -- a depiction of rejection at its worst when David is cruelly snubbed by the popular Cass and commits suicide. Afterwards, Giles takes the drama to another level. Kyle, David's supportive older brother, sees David's death as Cass's fault, and he kidnaps and tortures her. While this book is very different from the fun and excitement that usually accompanies Shaker's school dances, it will make you look at rejection in a whole different light. Get your copy soon, because according to librarian Patricia Laurence, this book is repeatedly stolen from the high school library. "Some students like it and don't want to return it," she said. "I have to keep buying it."

- BRI ADAMSON



Amazon.com

A person is not an insult

It was probably the ten thousandth time he had used the word. But this was the first time that it truly hurt.

E. Duff Wrobbel, an activist, used to use the word retarded without a thought until his daughter was diagnosed with Down's syndrome.

MIRIAM CHELIMSKY

According to a Sept. 9 NPR story, Wrobbel was driving with his baby daughter in the backseat when he was cut off by another driver. In anger, he called the driver retarded. Realizing what he said, he became very upset and pulled over to regain his composure. Finally understanding his mistake, he now actively campaigns against the usage of "retarded" as an insult.

Wrobbel isn't the only one fighting to ban the R-word. Currently 48,741 people have pledged to "support the elimination of the derogatory use of the R-word from everyday speech and promote the acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities," on the website r-word.org. Pressure has been put on the media to also refrain from using the slur. The Black Eyed Peas changed the title of their song "Let's Get Retarded" to "Let's Get it Started" after rethinking the use of the R-word as a term that meant to throw inhibitions to the wind.

Since 1895, the R-word was a medical term to describe someone with a mental disability, but by the 1960's the word took on a mainstream insulting meaning. However, the R-word isn't the only medical term that has turned into an insult. Common words such as lame, dumb and the R-word were originally limited to clinical contexts.

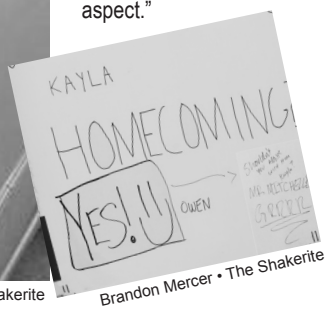
All of these words represent someone's identity or problem as an insult. Imagine if your name or identity became the all-purpose insult to describe something that is uninteresting, horrid, backward, dim, dopey, dull, weak, slow, unintelligent, brainless or silly. To say it would hurt having your name used to describe these things is an understatement. In the worst case, such widespread, demeaning use of someone's identity may contribute to low self esteem, depression or suicide.

It boils down to pure intellectual laziness. We don't want to take the time to truly describe what we don't like about a book, a movie, a song or a person, so we just use these catch-all terms. At the back-to-school dance, someone used lipstick to scrawl "gay dance" on a mirror in the women's restroom. It wasn't a gay dance; it wasn't only for gays. The student was probably angry about the administration's effort to curb suggestive dancing. But saying that the dance was gay didn't accurately represent what she felt about the dance. It only insulted gay people.

According to Hattie Gemerchak, president of GSA, "it's a shame that someone from our school, being very accepting, would write that. "

Julia Celeste• The Shakerite

RYAN CAMPBELL ASKED Karli Wise to Homecoming by putting sticky notes on her car. BELOW: Owen Willis asked Kayla Pincus by hanging a neon green poster board on the down staircase. Willis said, "I needed a cute way to ask her that she would see after her class. I was looking for the surprise aspect."



Brandon Mercer • The Shakerite

WILL YOU BE MY DATE?

- Asking your date to a dance via a text message may be easy, but here are some ways that are sure to make an impression

BY BRI ADAMSON AND DEVIN PARRY
STAFF REPORTERS

If you were senior Taylor Wright, Sept. 23 was a day you wanted to be sure you heard the morning announcements.

One of them was for her alone.

"Will Taylor Wright please report to Homecoming with Daniel Greene-Havas on Oct. 10, 2009?" junior Alyssa Lindbloom read amid the daily collection of club meeting times and sports results.

When it comes to asking someone to a dance, Greene-Havas' approach is just one of an increasing number of unique invitations that stand out against the nerve-wracking possibility of rejection.

What used to be a nervous, one-on-one encounter in which a boy approached a girl and asked her to a dance has evolved into unique and often very public displays of creativity.

During his freshman year, senior Patrick Martahus fought butterflies as he watched his intended date, a member of the women's soccer team. At halftime, he stood and unfurled a poster that read "Rachel, Homecoming?"

"I was really nervous because everyone in the stands was looking at me and it kind of freaked me out," Martahus said.

It was worth the risk.

"She ran over, said, 'yes' and hugged me," Martahus said. "I felt exuberant. It was a relief, and everyone stopped staring at me and clapped."

While some students prefer Martahus' very public proposal, others take a more stealthy approach.

Last year, junior Kari Semel went to each of her classes, where a rose and an envelope awaited her. Teachers gave Semel the envelopes, which contained clues naming specific people to look for in the school. These three individuals wore T-shirts embellished with one digit of a locker number. The final clue included a locker combination. When Semel opened the locker, she found a note that read, "Will you go to homecoming with me?"

"I was surprised, excited and couldn't wait to get a dress!" Semel said.

For Homecoming 2008, senior Tyler Leftridge took junior Alena Sauerland as his date. When it came time to ask, Leftridge went straight to the point.

"I took pictures of myself with paint spelling, 'HOMECOMING?'"

Upon opening her locker and seeing the pictures, Sauerland said, "I was surprised, shocked a little bit, then I said, 'Yes.' "

This plot was risky, but the possibility of rejection, not to mention embarrassment, didn't seem to bother Leftridge,

"It's whatever, I would have laughed," he said of the chance Sauerland would have declined the unique invitation.

Leftridge's attitude toward rejection resembles that of sophomore Taylor Henning, who baked a cookie and used icing to write "Homecoming?" across it for his date. Henning's ploy was successful, but he said he would have just eaten the cookie if his date had not accepted his offer.

No matter how unfazed boys say they are by the prospect of rejection, there's no doubt that it can hurt.

One junior girl, who wished to remain anonymous, accepted an offer to homecoming that she soon decided she didn't want to keep.

Within the hour of accepting, the girl called back to reverse her decision: "I said, 'I don't know if I want a date'."

You might think boys would grow tired of bearing the burden of asking all by themselves.

"I have never asked someone because it's the boy's job," senior Rachel Leonard said.

"It's tradition."

While some girls feel that boys asking girls is tradition, others question the custom.

"I think it's completely 100 percent appropriate and girls should feel more comfortable asking guys because it's not fair on guys that they have all that pressure," said junior Margaret Pierce, who went on to say that she'd ask a boy to a dance but would feel nervous.

Martahus said he wouldn't mind a change. "Yeah, it's tradition, but if a girl asked me to a dance and I liked her, then I'd break tradition and go with her," he said.

Whether it's deciding who would be fun to go with, how to ask them, or how to decline an invitation, the bottom line is to be confident, creative – and realistic.

"You have to go into it knowing, 'I might not get this,' and not to take it personally," said social worker Chris Ruma-Cullen. "It doesn't mean that you're not a nice person."

FROM BLACKED-OUT WINDOWS TO KNICK-KNACKS AND FURNITURE

• Shaker mobilized to make Obama's visit safe, comfortable

BY ELLEN HOLCOMB
THE BEAT EDITOR

On July 23, Barack Obama visited Ohio for a tour of the Cleveland Clinic followed by a town hall meeting at the high school.

When Obama arrived, his limousine pulled up to the south parking lot, next to the tunnel, between the lot and the courtyard. All the high school's security cameras were disabled before the president entered the building. He came into the school through the tunnel stairs, which led him to the multipurpose room hallway.

All lockers that Obama would pass were searched by explosive-detecting dogs prior to his visit. Obama stopped in Room 100, where VIPs met with him and took pictures.

He proceeded through the multipurpose room hallway on his way to Room 129, where a make-shift TV studio was set up for an ABC interview. Furniture and knick-knacks were brought to the set and to the choir room from the administration building to achieve a more homey setting.

Every window in the multipurpose room hallway was covered with black paper, and windows in all classrooms that Obama entered were obscured by shades or paper.

Obama then waited in the choir room until it was time to appear before the north gym crowd. When everyone was situated in the gym, he walked into the basement and made his way into the north gym.

District Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell and her staff were very busy in preparation for and during the visit.

"Several of us worked 12 to 14 to 16-hour days for the entire week," she said.

The district learned of the impending visit only six days before it was to occur. Caldwell and other volunteers notified those who won tickets to the speech and distributed them, and they scrambled to collect furnishings to send to the high school: a lamp, two chairs, a table, a bookcase with encyclopedias and decorative items.

Caldwell said the custodial staff cleared spaces for the president to relax and to hide in case of emergency, and that the dance room was a staging area for armed guards.

"I found myself very appreciative of people who sign on for this sort of responsibility," she said.

Principal Michael Griffith pointed to several of Shaker's assets as a reason for the president's visit.

"We have a long history of education and are well respected. We are a diverse community that represents the country well," he said.

AT THE EVENT, Obama called on Senior Class President Brandon Patterson and Freshman Class President Parker Smith to ask questions.

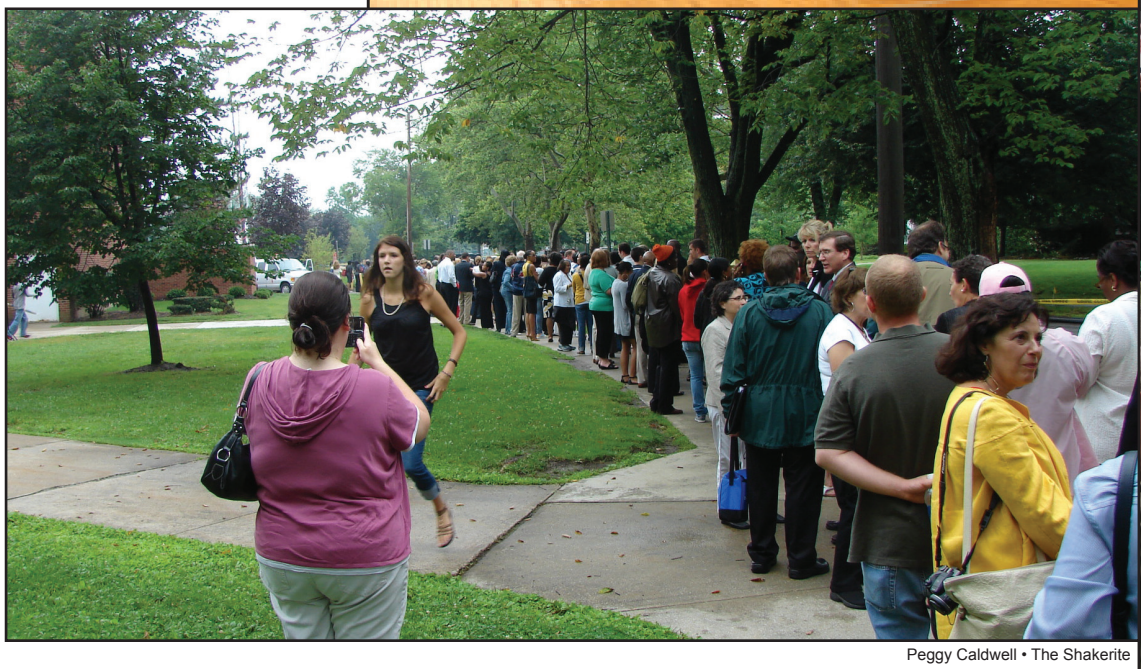
Peggy Caldwell • The Shakerite

THE WHITE HOUSE advance staff set up in the gymnasium three days prior to Obama's arrival. Trained soldiers travel with Obama from place to place to prepare everything for him. One thousand folding chairs were set up on the gym floor, and 120 seats were designated for press in the back bleachers. The rest of the audience sat in the sideline bleachers.

Peggy Caldwell • The Shakerite

ROOM 129 WAS set up as a makeshift ABC studio for the President's "Nightline" interview. The president gave the interview before addressing the crowd.

Peggy Caldwell • The Shakerite



MORE THAN 1,000 tickets were given out in the lottery; between 2,200 and 2,500 people attended the town hall meeting, including press and VIPs.

Peggy Caldwell • The Shakerite

IF YOU LIKE WHAT GOVERNMENT DID FOR GENERAL MOTORS
YOU'LL LOVE WHAT GOVERNMENT WILL DO TO YOUR HEALTH CARE
THE OBAMA HEALTH PLAN IS MAKING ME ILL!

APPROXIMATELY 10 PROTESTERS stood outside the north gymnasium during the town hall meeting. No security intervened with the protestors because they did not threaten Obama's safety.

Peggy Caldwell • The Shakerite

TOP 5 PLAYLIST FROM SOPHOMORE NIA BOLDEN

1. "Forever Young" by Jay-Z
2. "Does She know?" by Trey Songz
3. "PYT" by Michael Jackson
4. "Real as it Gets" by Jay-Z
5. "Slow Dance" by Keri Hilson

PUTTING A NEW TWIST ON '80s HAIR

• From high-tops to fro-hawks, students blend new, old looks to retool classic styles

BY BRANDON PATTERSON
LIME LIGHT EDITOR

"When I wake up, I immediately go to the bathroom to fix my hair; I get out the hair spray, the comb and the grease. It takes me a good amount of time to get my hair quite right, but it's all worth it because I love my hair!" said junior Deshonne Garrett.

From old-fashioned high-tops to the half-mohawk half-afro (aka fro-hawk) coming back in style, Shaker guys are rocking out these infamous '80s hair styles.

The high-top hair styles originated in the '80s with public figures, such as NBA player Dennis Hopson and actor Will Smith.

"When I was in school, just about every black guy had some sort of high-top," said Randy Barnes ('83), who played basketball at Shaker.

"We weren't making a 'fashion statement' like many kids nowadays say, it was just the thing that everyone had. You would turn on the TV and see everyone wearing one, so we just did the same."

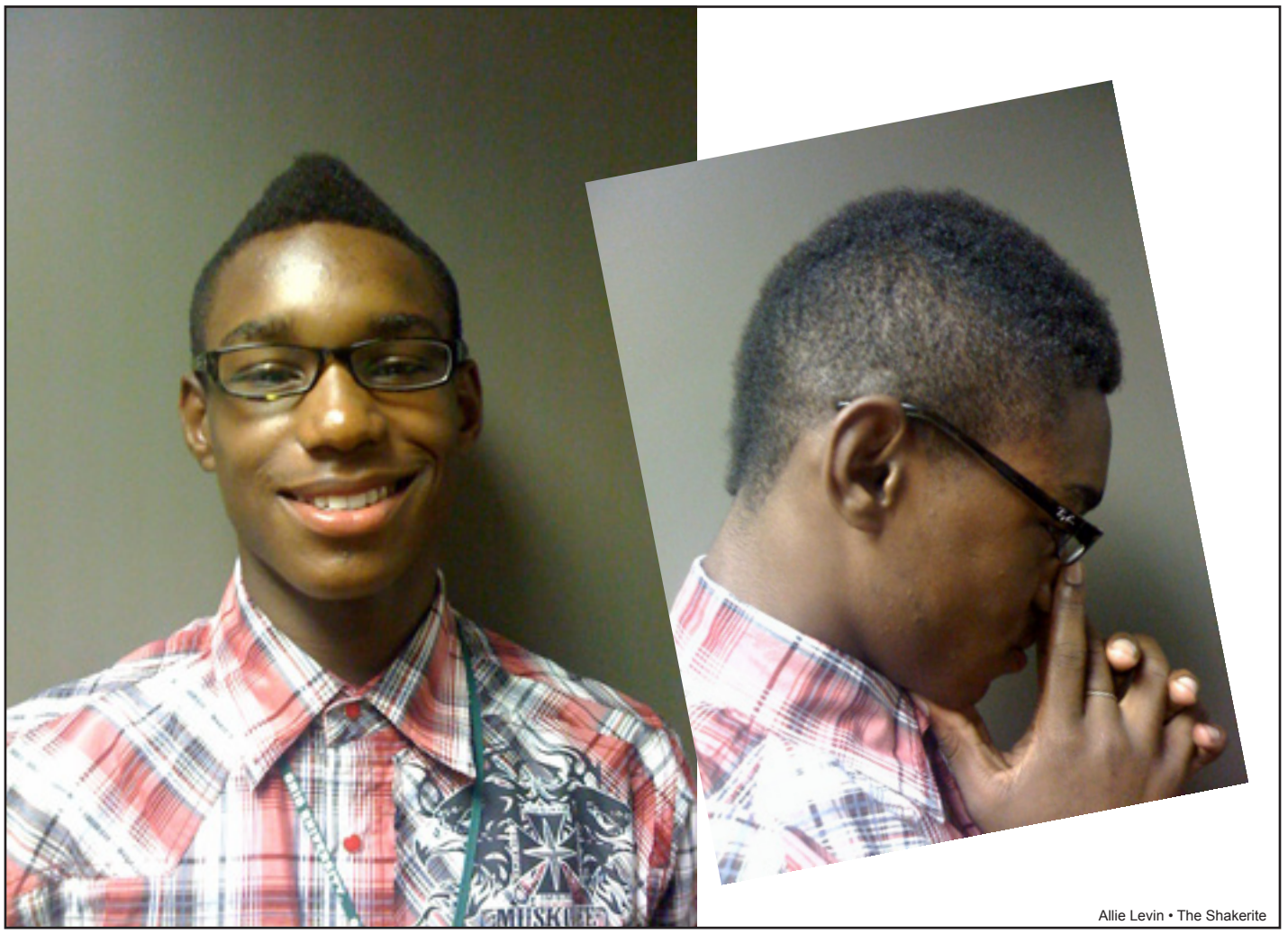
Like the high-tops of '80s, today's versions are sometimes extravagantly carved with lines and designs, however they have been updated and personalized with different colors and lengths of hair.

"I love my high-top," Garrett said. "It changed my entire style . . . in a good way, of course!"

The era of the high-top came to a swift end, when Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls shaved his head and became the face of Nike.

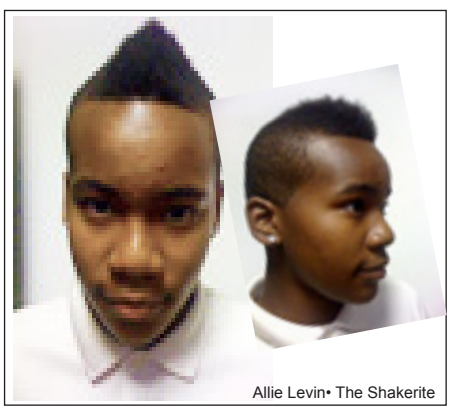
"I'm ashamed to admit that once Jordan got the bald cut, I got the bald cut too . . . and look at me now!" said Barnes, who is now bald by choice.

One would think that students of the new millennium would not have any connection to skinny jeans, neon shirts and, most importantly, the bold hair statements of the '80s. But technology has made images of'80s pop culture widely available, whether through TV reruns or throwback programming on MTV. It's no surprise that 80's hair has been reborn. "I used to watch the TV show 'House Party' when I was younger and always thought that their style was dope," Garrett said.



Allie Levin • The Shakerite

KEON WILLIS SPORTS a fro-hawk, which he debuted in 2006. The self-proclaimed first student at the high school to rock this hybrid look, Willis proudly defends '80s hair styles and their resurrection. "As long as one person keeps it going, then it will never go away, and if that person has to be me . . . then that's a responsibilty i am willing to take on!" he said.


Allie Levin• The Shakerite
GARYDD MCKNIGHT WEARS a fresly cut fro-hawk

Brandon Patterson • The Shakerite
ANTHONY STEELE ROCKS a blonde streaked fro-hawk

Last year, there were only a handful of Shaker students sporting the retro look, but now there are enough to comprise cliques devoted to it.

At the high school, two prominent crews are The Nice Guys (TNG) and the Fresh SOBs.

These two fashionable groups are known for flaunting their '80s style from head to toe.

"As the CEO of The Nice Guys, I am proud to say that we are not a gang," said Otis Barrow, founder of TNG. "We are a fashion group!"

The Fresh SOBs, who have members from Cleveland Heights, host huge parties and make guest appearances at fashion events. They credit their groups' popularity to their unique look.

"We just wanted to have a different style," said Jordan Allen, president of TNG.

These high fashion guys take pride in how they look, demonstrated by the long, grueling process of preparing their hair each day. "It took me months to grow my hair out before I could even think about getting my high-top," Garrett said. "And now that I have one, it takes even more time to actually keep it looking good."

But some reactionaries think that these Shaker students are wasting their time on a useless trend.

"People who try and rock high-tops are just posers," junior Richard Bailey said. "They see one person wearing it and decide that they will, too? This will easily go away once the new fad becomes popular."

Keon Willis, vice president of the senior class, is the poster boy of the '80s resurgence.

"I have had my fro-hawk for years now, and I have no plan on getting rid of it anytime soon. And as long as one person keeps it going, then it will never go away and if that person has to be me...then thats a responsibilty i am willing to take on!"

LOCK LINGO

HIGH –TOP
A style in which the sides and back are tapered, or faded, and there is some sort of afro on the top of the head. The length varies, but the higher, the better!

FRO-HAWK
A hybrid between the two hair styles of an afro and a mohawk. The hair is generally low cut, or faded, on the sides with a thin strip of long hair going down the center of the head in a form of an afro.

HOW TO GET A HIGH-TOP
Grow out a nice sized afro (for about two-three months).
Go to a young, hip barber who can hook you up.
Get a fade on both sides and back of afro.
Have the top part of the afro trimmed and shaped up.
Pick it out! Spray some Oil Sheen on it and you're done!

REMEMBERING POP ROYALTY

• From childhood star to the King of Pop, Michael Jackson's career leaves lasting influence on fans of all ages

michaeljackson.com

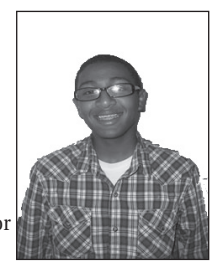
Michael Jackson has left an incredible influence on the world. Two hours after Jackson's death, "Thriller" went to number 1 on Itunes. In the three weeks after Jackson's death, more than 2.3 million albums were sold. The final shows that Michael Jackson never performed are the subject of "This Is It," a documentary set for release Oct. 28. The film documents preparations for Jackson's summer concert series that was to take place in London in June 2009. The film takes viewers behind the scenes with the performer as he created and rehearsed for sold-out concerts, which had been promoted as his final public performances. "This Is It" will be viewed worldwide beginning Oct. 28; tickets went on sale Sept. 27. Fans can influence the look of the films promotional poster by uploading images to www.thisisit.com. The final poster will be revealed on the day before release.

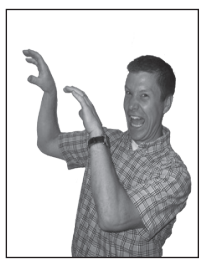
"I liked his style, and how he didn't let the comments people made get to him. He just kept going."

Shala Miller
sophomore

"He made me feel comfortable in my own skin."

Ifeolu Claytor
freshman



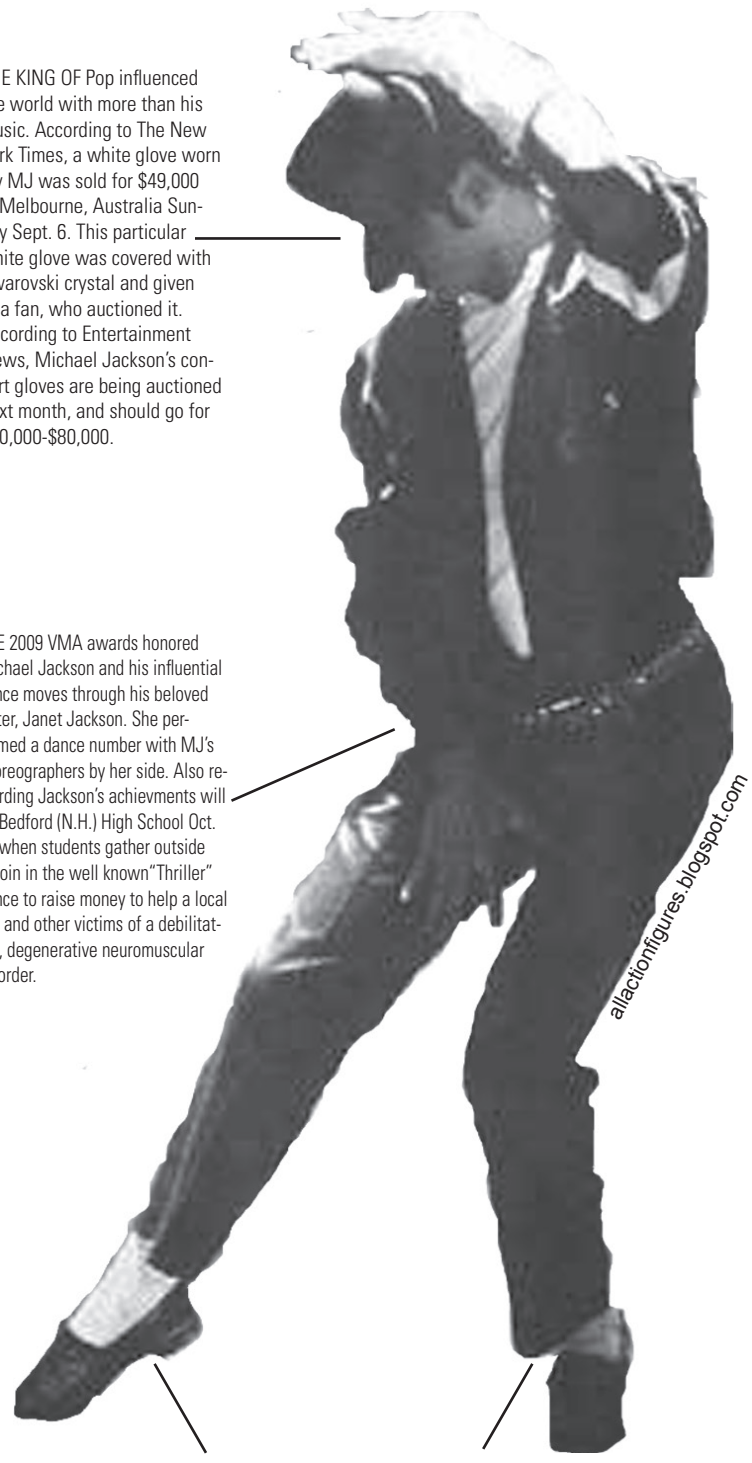


"I still have the 'Thriller' album. It's one of my prized posessions."

William Scanlon
science teacher

"I loved the way he danced, and the way he used his dancing to help better the world. I also love dancing to his music."

Kyle Hughley
sophomore



THE KING OF Pop influenced the world with more than his music. According to The New York Times, a white glove worn my MJ was sold for $49,000 in Melbourne, Australia Sunday Sept. 6. This particular white glove was covered with Swarovski crystal and given to a fan, who auctioned it. According to Entertainment News, Michael Jackson's concert gloves are being auctioned next month, and should go for $60,000-$80,000.

THE 2009 VMA awards honored Michael Jackson and his influential dance moves through his beloved sister, Janet Jackson. She performed a dance number with MJ's choreographers by her side. Also rewarding Jackson's achievments will be Bedford (N.H.) High School Oct. 24 when students gather outside to join in the well known"Thriller" dance to raise money to help a local girl and other victims of a debilitating, degenerative neuromuscular disorder.

THE LOS ANGELES Times noted that at the June 28 BET Awards, "performers emulated Jackson's iconoclastic style: crop leather jackets (especially red), white T-shirts, pegged black pants, black shoes, white socks -- and a single white glove."

Compiled by Katie Inglis

Cudi's new album: the soundtrack to all of our lives

KID CUDI'S 'MAN ON THE MOON THE END OF DAY'

www.m3pboo.com

"I'm on the pursuit of happiness and I know everything that shines ain't always gonna be gold," sings rapper and former SHHS student Kid Cudi on his new hit album, "Man on the Moon." Cudi's music is definitely as good as gold. Kid Cudi welcomes you with his beginning track, "In My Dreams (Cudder Anthem)"and wastes no time and represents Cleveland in his second track, "Soundtrack 2 My Life," and again near the end of the album in "Hyyerr." Cudi oozes confidence and inspiration in his lyrics and compelling beat. Do yourself a favor and listen to Kid Cudi's "Man on the Moon." You'll be proud to know he went to Shaker.

Get this

Katie Inglis

JAICKO'S 'OH YEAH'

www.gomoxie.org

New Barbados pop sensation Jaicko is only 18 and plans to drop his debut album "I can" this winter. His first single, "Oh Yeah" features a Caribbean echo. He is already making waves from his little island nation and hopes to be a compelling sensation across the American waters. Jaicko also gives back to the community; he has already performed at the 2009 US Open Arthur Ashe Kids' day and America's Camp, a sleepaway camp for children who lost a parent or sibling in the September 11 attacks.

Patrick Pohlman

OWL CITY'S 'OCEAN'S EYES'

www.urbandaily.com

Owl City's "Ocean Eyes" deserves a solid B. Adam Young's voice is uniquely catchy, and the electronic beats behind his music add that extra energy. The group's promotional material cites Young's childhood insomnia as inspiration for his musical pursuits. Sleepiness seems to have paid off. Although his lyrics have been thought of as kitschy, his originality allows him to create songs that defy convention. The combination of these two qualities brings Young's music to life and keeps listeners' attention. Check out Owl City, and you'll be just another fan giving the album five stars on ITunes.

Guest Reviewer Maddie Walker, sophomore

Cyber blather go away, blog again another day

If you thought that the unstoppable waves of status updates on Facebook or flurry of tweeting adolescents on Twitter were a sad excuse to reveal all of your business, the newly modified blogs have leaked into our lives just in time to publicize more ridiculous antics.

Blogs have been semi-popular for years. Millions of people have been documenting the tedious details of their daily lives for the world to see online. Early blogs were plain and uninviting and, most importantly, boring!

BRANDON PATTERSON

But now new websites have marketed their services to teenagers, who spam their blogs with unimportant information. These blogs combine the worst elements of today's teenage culture – glitter, falling letters, huge text, disorienting backgrounds and the latest Lil' Wayne hit.

Blogsite.com is one of the few locations online that still features modest blogs. The site brings a sense of reality to blogs; they contain normal postings so that bloggers can keep their friends updated on their lives. But some people feel as if this is not enough.They want to say to the universe, "I have friends!" when in reality spending hours blogging screams "I have no life!"

Websites such as FML.com, textfromlastnight.com and Twitter are all sites that originally began as blogs about humor in people's daily lives. Posts ranged from virtual diaries of all the messed up stuff that users had experienced that day or drunken text messages they received the night before.

You might think, "Why would someone spend hours reading these pointless so-called blogs?" I felt the same way at first, but now I am ashamed to say that I have become obsessed with these websites -- it's as if I contracted a virus from the bizarre disclosures on screen. After you begin to read them, you discover enchanting tales among pages of amusing humiliations. Soon enough, you return daily for your fix.

The option to not only comment on others' blogs but also to create your own is icing on the cake. Early blogs could not be personalized or commented on. Now, however, if someone had a night out on the town, did some questionable deeds and decided to post them on their blog, people can comment on their stupidity. This gives the reader a chance to either make ignorant responses or to compliment the person on making irresponsible decisions.

After teenagers realized this new opportunity to be snarky, it became a phenomenon. Three things resulted from the new fad. One, everyone's Facebook status was a quote from FML.com or textfromlastnight.com. Two, the saying "FML" snagged one of the top five spots on the "abbreviated sentences list," and three, people began to be rewarded for their belligerent actions by dedicated readers who would compliment them on the incoherent messages they sent to their friends.

People have become so accustomed to telling everyone their business, but whatever happened to pride? Whatever happened to people appreciating their lives and not broadcasting them across the web?

So please, people, when blogging, don't put your entire life story online. If you do, all I have to say to you is, "You dropped something . . . your dignity!"

Allie Levin • The Shakerite

VISITING FROM LONDON, Geoff Bullen, director of The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, engages theater students during a workshop Sept. 11 in the Large Auditorium.

Tips on Shakespeare, straight from UK

BY KATIE INGLIS
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Say, "Workshop with a leading British Shakespearean director" and what comes to mind?

Sophistication. Enrichment. Insults and bird calls.

Theater students got all this and more when Geoff Bullen, associate director of The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, visited the high school Sept. 11.

The workshop, organized by Head of Theater Department Christine McBurney, was designed to prepare students to act in the upcoming fall show, "Much Ado About Nothing."

McBurney met Bullen two years ago through a friend, and asked him to conduct a workshop with Shaker theater students. Bullen was recently in Cleveland for his performance in "All's Well that Ends Well" at the Cleveland Playhouse, so McBurney took advantage of the opportunity for Bullen to return for another workshop.

At the workshop, Bullen focused on the fact that Shakespeare is performed more with the body than by reading from a script. "The workshop was a mix of relaxing yourself, letting your body take over instead of your mind and working on the rhythm of Shakespeare's text," junior Izzy Storm said.

In an email interview, Bullen elaborated on the physical aspects of performing Shakespeare he covered in the workshop. "It's not to do with speaking prettily; it's about the actor making the sound of thoughts hitting the air in words. If this motivation is right, then the speaking will be clear; if it's full of need then it will be appropriately lyrical, uplifted etc.," he wrote.

According to the students who attended, Bullen was inspirational and his workshop was a learning experience different than anything they had experienced before.

"He was way beyond what any one of us had expected and he took chances at trying to get us to relax and focus even though we have never met," junior Taran Brown said.

Although the setting seems formal, Storm explains it was anything but. She said, "We didn't just sit and watch him talk, we got to experience it through activities like screaming old insults at each other from across the floor and twittering like small birds."

Not only were the students enthusiastic, but Bullen was also enthralled by the reactions he received.

"They seemed to 'get' it: they were all willing, ready to have a laugh and daring to go for big effects.

"The standard of drama work in the school is clearly extremely high, the students have a marvelous balance of fun and seriousness: in my book, that's the only way to work..."

top 5

THINGS I LEARNED FROM GEOFF BULLEN

David Wemer

1. Disregard all punctuation.
2. The end of the line can mean everything or nothing, it all depends on how you read the meaning.
3. When acting in Shakespeare you must be both the Beast and the Birdie.
4. Bah Boom Bah Boom Bah Boom Bah Boom.
5. Forget everything you have been taught before this and just go with your gut when you're on stage.

Get the popcorn ready because it's movie time

PREMIERES: OCT. 2

STARRING: Ellen Page, Naiel Stern, Drew Barrymore and Jimmy

Have you ever felt your parents pressured you to live out their dreams? Have you ever thought that if you were given the opportunity to become a hero, you could? If so, this movie is perfect for you. "Whip It," starring Ellen Page ("Juno"), is about a girl, Bliss Cavendar, who decides to give up her dream of being a beauty pageant competitor to join a roller derby team. She lies to her mother about her new time commitment by saying that she is taking a pre-SAT course instead. After uniting with the roller derby squad, Bliss realizes that she can be a hero in her own way.

PREMIERES: OCT. 9

STARRING: Vince Vaughn, Malin Ankermen, Jason Batemen, Kristen Bell

For some reason high school couples never seem to work, but coming soon to theaters is a movie that can give teens some comedic advice. "Couples Retreat" is a comedy about four couples who go to a resort island in a final effort to save their marriages. As one couple actually takes this task seriously, the others lounge about and treat the intervention as a vacation. With Vince Vaughn ("Dodgeball") on board, chances for hilarity are strong. Romantic comedies have become cheesy but this movie may offer a fresh take on an old theme.

PREMIERES: OCT. 23

STARRING: Staring: Tobin Bell, Costas Mandylor, Shannee Smith and Tenedra Howard

The highly anticipated thriller of the year is finally here: "Saw VI." The latest addition to the "Saw" movie sequence arrives just in time for Halloween and promises the usual "Saw" offerings: blood, mystery, blood, anticipation, blood, suspense and blood. Tanedra Howard, the winner of the VH1 reality show "Scream Queens," has snagged one of the leading roles, and it is predicted to be her breakout film. This is a must see movie, and everyone who attends should be prepared for the thrill – and gore -- of their lives.

Brandon Patterson

Don't hate the player, hate the punishment

Maybe it's the economy. Maybe it's the weather. Maybe it's the phases of the moon. Whatever the reason, athletes are on the warpath.

It started with University of Oregon running back LeGarrette Blount, who did his best impression of Mike Tyson in "The Hangover" when he punched a Boise State player in the face after the game. Serena Williams followed that by threatening to shove a ball down an innocent, albeit incorrect, lineswoman's throat after she charged Williams with a foot fault on match point at the U.S. Open. Even mild-mannered superathlete Roger Federer caught the Whine Flu virus and got his little Nike shorts in a bunch when he went off on an U.S. Open official during the championship match.

TOM O'NEILL

The latest PDD, public display of dissatisfaction, came when New York Yankees veteran catcher Jorge Posada instigated a benches clearing brawl during a game against the Toronto Blue Jays.I have no problem with any of these incidents. Blount was clearly provoked by the Boise State player.

Williams had a long day at the tournament, and the lineswoman was clearly wrong about her foot fault call.

Federer was just trying to make a point to the official and became frustrated when his argument was not being heard.

Even Posada had a reason to be upset, as he was thrown behind earlier in the at-bat. My only problem lies in the inconsistency by which they are being judged.

Williams was fined $10,500, which should not be a problem, because she won the doubles championship the next day and collected a purse of $210,000.

Federer received no penalty for his outburst, but he did lose the match.

That brings us to Blount. A day after his Ultimate Fighting Championship audition, he was suspended for the season. Sawds.

I admit it was a tough decision for first-year Oregon coach Chip Kelly. He needed to set the tone for his program, but he ended Blount's once very attainable goal of reaching the NFL.

After rushing for 1,002 yards and scoring 17 touchdowns, Blount was the twelfth-ranked running back on www.nfldraftcountdown.com.

If Blount could have put up similar numbers this year, he would be sure to rise even higher, making him a lock for the draft.

Now, he will be lucky if he can find a team in the Canadian Football League to take him.

A teary Kelly said in a press conference that Blount had learned his lesson, but his actions "are not what Oregon football is about."

Apparently, Oregon football is not about being fair to its players either.

Kelly took a great teaching moment for his team and used it to ruin a student athlete's dreams.

We live in a world where entertainers no longer get along and politicians are unable to have a civil discussion about improving our quality of life, but nobody is seriously reprimanded.

Yet when a 22-year-old student reacts to a second student's stupid provocation, his lifelong aspiration is dashed.

There is something crooked about this, and it isn't just the Boise State player's jaw.

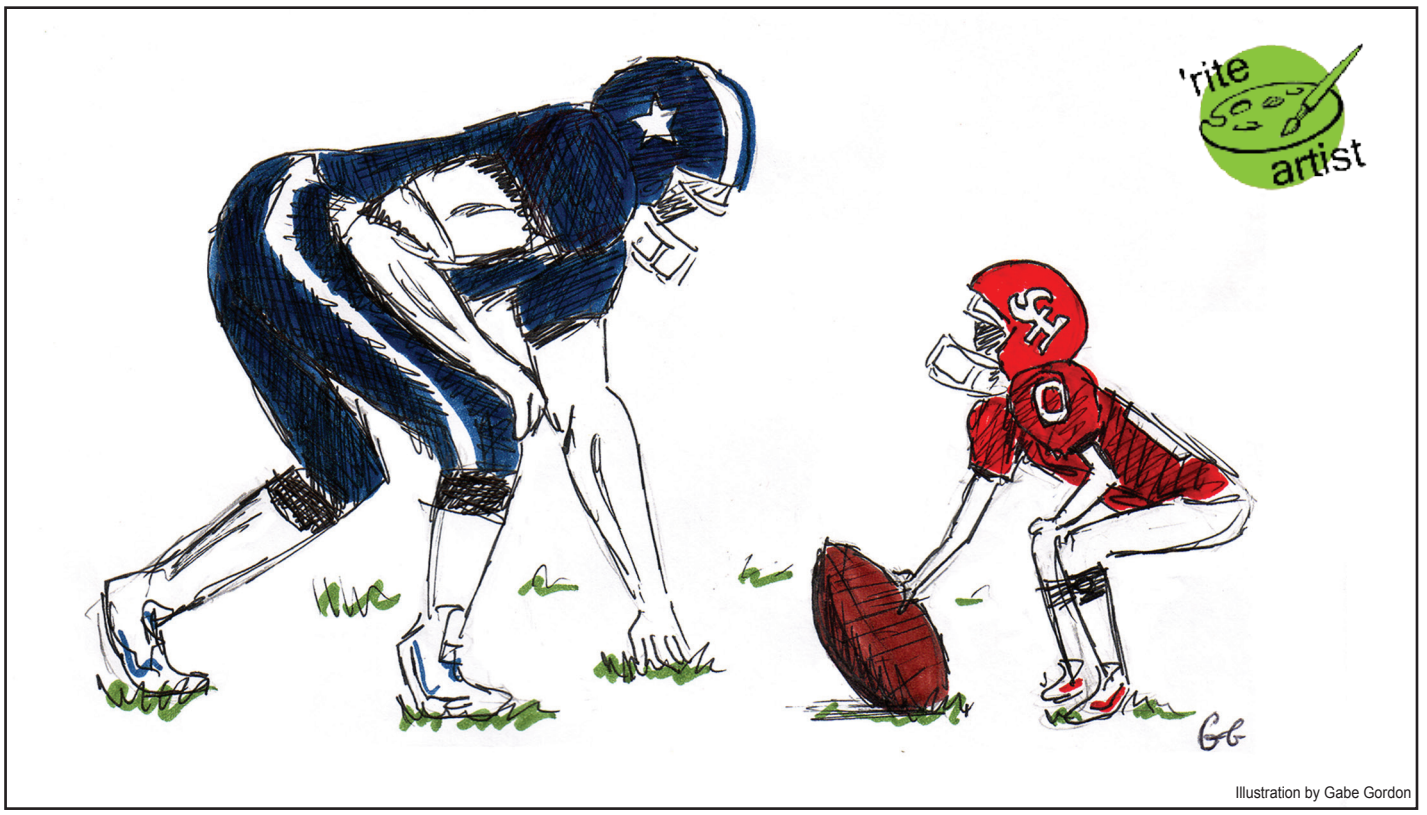


Illustration by Gabe Gordon

SOPHOMORE-HEAVY

• Varsity football struggles through rebuilding season with few seniors and a surplus of underclassmen

BY IAN ROUND
RAIDERZONE EDITOR

Elyria Catholic senior defensive tackle Jared Schuster is 6'4" and weighs 310 lbs.

Shaker sophomore center Alex Gaspar is six inches shorter and 100 pounds lighter.

Gaspar grappled with the hulking Schuster Sept. 17 when the Panthers defeated Shaker 19-13.

The mismatch was not the first and will not be the last the sophomore-heavy Raiders will face this year.

"The first play was so scary. . . He beat up on me the first couple plays but he wore out pretty quickly," Gaspar said.

Although he's not small at 5'10" and 210 lbs., Gaspar is young and must take on linemen who boast two extra years of experience and bulk.

Gaspar is one of 18 sophomores on the 62-man varsity roster this year. About eight of them get a significant amount of playing time.

Special teams coordinator Tim Richards said compared to the class of 2009, which graduated 35 players, the class of 2010 is small but motivated.

"The combination of those things has put us in a 'rebuilding' mode. I do have to say that we still have a group of eager seniors who work their tails off," Richards said.

Shaker's season opened Aug. 29 against Solon and 6'6", 265 lb. senior defensive end Darryl Baldwin, who has committed to Ohio State. Despite not facing Baldwin directly, Gaspar was skeptical of his talent.

"He really didn't seem Ohio State material by the way he missed a tackle on our sophomore quarterback," Gaspar said.

That elusive QB is Connor Hall, who at 6'3", 190 lbs. was not intimidated, either.

"He wasn't a big factor defensively, so I didn't feel any different going against him than anyone else," Hall said. "The pace of the game is so fast that when a defender is chasing you, you don't know or care who it is."

Toughness and confidence are important at QB, and Hall does not lack in either despite his age.

"It's not that much of an issue because I'm not scared to run the ball and I don't mind getting hit -- whatever's best for the team," he said.

In the preseason, Hall was not as comfortable. "Being only a sophomore and not knowing much about varsity, I had to find out what I was doing before I could start helping out everyone else. . . Going into the season I expected to be the backup, but now I'm used to being the starter," he said.

Gaspar regularly concedes as much as 50 pounds to opposing defensive linemen, which he says is tough because of the size, age and experience difference. (Elyria Catholic's Schuster is 100 pounds more than Gaspar, but he's abnormally huge).

Nevertheless, Gaspar doesn't feel the need for special mental preparation, even with the intense level of competition.

"They're still high school kids just like us, and I imagine going out there and playing my hardest," he said.

Hall gears up for competition differently. "Preparing for a game, I try to clear my mind and just focus on the game that day. I just relax, get focused and review all my assignments and strategies for each play," he said.

As a freshman, Hall played varsity baseball, which he says differs greatly from football.

"The physical difference, difference in atmosphere and pressure, and just pace of the game [are completely different], an d I played a lot more of a minor role on varsity baseball last year than I am this season in football."

He described "how quiet it is during a baseball game and how loud it is during a football game, with the band and the intensity."

Even though "they're still high school kids," linemen will taunt and threaten one another to try to intimidate the opponent.

"It doesn't mean anything if you can't back it up. They'll call you out, but if you hit them hard enough you'll shut 'em up," Gaspar said.

Gaspar said he is stiffer and sorer at halftime than at the end of the game.

"My legs just tighten up really quickly and the muscles get sore. . . . Not moving around in the locker room really tightens you up," he said.

After the grueling game, he is "pretty freaking exhausted. I wait for the weekend all week, and then after a game I'm too tired to even do anything."

scoutingohio.com

CONNOR HALL EVADES a tackle by Ohio State recruit Darryl Baldwin of Solon.

CAVS FANS AWAITING LEBRON'S FATEFUL OFF-SEASON

With Lebron James' contract expiring at the end of this season, Cavs fans are worried about keeping the King in Cleveland. With each Yankees hat he wears, fans become increasingly skeptical of James signing a contract extension with Cleveland this off-season. Some fans are taking matters into their own hands. Popular Cavaliers online forum www.realcavsfans.com created a second site, www.Lebron2010.com, designed to raise money from Cavs fans to put up a billboard encouraging James to stay in Cleveland. So far, the site has raised $1,606.62 with more to come during the season. With many students concerned about James' future in Cleveland, www.lebron2010.com may be a good way to influence the King.

TOM O'NEILL

SENIOR SOCCER STARS SHINE

• After helping the Raiders to a final four bid in 2008, Shlaes, Goldsmith will realize lifelong dreams when they take the field for major college programs

BY PATRICK POHLMAN
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Although their sport gets little attention from mainstream sports fans, the Shaker women's soccer program has caught the eye of Division I college scouts from major soccer conferences.

Senior captains Kaley Shlaes and Lizzie Goldsmith, two members of last year's final four team, will play collegiately in the Atlantic Coast Conference and in the Sun Belt Conference, respectively. Shlaes will attend North Carolina State, and Goldsmith the University of South Alabama.

A college career seems a natural development for Shlaes, a midfielder, who said she began playing soccer at age 3 and has rarely been without the ball since.

"My inspiration is myself. I pushed myself hard when I was younger to play better. I always had a ball at my feet, whether I was kicking it around with my dad in the front yard or trying new foot-skills and juggling," Shlaes said.

Goldsmith, who plays forward, has been playing since she was 7. "I always wanted to play college soccer from the first moment I touched the ball," she said.

Head coach Tom Fowler said the two players are among the best he's seen."Kaley Shlaes and Lizzie Goldmsith are two of the most talented players to play for me," said Fowler, who has coached Shlaes the past four and Goldsmith the last three years.

"Kaley is an imaginative, wonderful player who loves the game. The amount of effort she puts out there day in and day out is consistent, and it shows how committed she is," Fowler said.

"Lizzie is tough as nails, can play and finish under pressure, and loves to go in the direction of the goal. Not a lot of players obtain the intensity she carries in the games," Fowler said of Goldsmith.

Shlaes and Goldsmith didn't always think they were going to make it to Division I. "I was playing in front of the University of Iowa coach and completely missed a wide open goal. My heart sank. The entire game, I couldn't get back on my game," Shlaes said.

Goldsmith played on the Internationals, a premier team, in 2006 and had a similar experience.

"Our team did awful; we didn't move on to states. Our coach told us none of us will ever make it to Division I soccer," Goldsmith said.

The two girls can officially sign with their respective schools in February 2010.

After playing at the collegiate level, Shlaes hopes to play in the Women's Professional Soccer league. Goldsmith hopes to become a physical therapist or an athletic trainer.

Both are glad to see their long-term goals realized.

Said Shlaes, "It's truly a dream come true."

"I always wanted to play college soccer from the first moment I touched the ball."

Lizzie Goldsmith
senior forward

KALEY SHLAES **LIZZIE GOLDSMITH**

Adam Schiller • The Shakerite

SHLAES FAST FACTS

Why N.C. State?

"I love everything about it - the coaches, the team, the facilities, the school, the conference, and the warm weather," Shlaes said.

Shlaes has commited to North Carolina State.Was also considering Penn State, Duquesne University and Central Michigan.

GOLDSMITH FAST FACTS

Why The University of South Alabama?

"I chose it because I love the coaches and I can see myself impacting the game there," Goldsmith said. She also stated, " . . . and I hate the snow and the cold weather, " she says.

Goldsmith has commited to The University of South Alabama. Was also considering UNC Greensboro, Marshall, Ball State and Indiana State

Veronika

Fabian

FIELD HOCKEY WELCOMES GERMAN SIBLINGS

BY EMMA BRESNAHAN
STAFF REPORTER

Luxury automobiles aren't the only thing coming in from the U.S. lately.

The field hockey team received a boost in talent from German siblings Fabian and Veronika Vajko. The brother and sister duo, who moved to Shaker this year, are passionate about field hockey. Two years ago, after watching his sister play for years, Fabian began to play on a team in Germany. However, he is unable to play in the U.S. because Ohio state law says it is illegal for boys to play on girls' teams. "It sucks. . . it's definitely not fair for me," Fabian said.

As a compromise, varsity coach Hilary Anderson made Fabian the team's goalie coach. To get his competitive fix, Fabian is considering playing ice hockey and running track.

He doesn't mind his current assignment, though. "I love playing with the girls. It's a lot of fun," Fabian said. Anderson said that Fabian is part of the team just as much as she is and that he presents the girls with a challenge. "I always say if the girls can beat him, then they can beat anyone," she said.

Senior goalie Taylor Wright enjoys working with Fabian and warming up with him before games.

"Sometimes I have to tell him to do easier shots. I always have to remind him that it's just a warm up. I learned quickly that he is very competitive," Wright said.

Players also love having Veronika on the team. "In Germany we play on turf and here we play on grass. Practice is different here, and so is the system," said Veronika, who added that she enjoys playing field hockey here because the team dynamic is better.

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Taylor Wright
senior goalie